



Village of Arcadia

Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Online

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2024 – Special Meeting of Council

Time: 6:30 pm

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pleadwell at 6:30 pm. It was held online via Microsoft Teams. Present were Mayor Pleadwell, Deputy Mayor Sharpe, Councillor Black, Councillor Gahan-MaGee, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Mennier, and Acting Clerk Monique LeBlanc.

2) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by Council.

- o *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the agenda as presented.*

With no questions and all in favour, the motion carried.

3) Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Mayor Pleadwell asked if anyone present had any conflicts to declare based on the agenda. No conflicts were declared.

4) Action on funding opportunities

Mayor Pleadwell drew Council's attention to the Province of New Brunswick's 2024-2025 budget that saw the Governance Transition recapitalized with \$4.4M. He noted that at the last Council Meeting, on March 18th, mention was often made of the challenges in pursuing funding opportunities due to the staffing shortage in the office. While there may be funds available, we are not well positioned to develop and submit applications with short turn around times. The federal budget will be coming out April 16th, and it is expected several programs may be recapitalized and we need to be positioned to be able to make good on those opportunities. He suggested that Arcadia engage a consultant to identify and pursue funding in collaboration with office staff, and that the related costs be submitted for reimbursement under the Governance Transition Fund.

- o *It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Deputy Mayor Sharpe to engage Danielle Connell for a 3-month contract not to exceed 400hrs @ \$50/hrs to both action current council identified funding opportunities in Arcadia but also*

Arcadia

6 Municipal Lane, Cambridge-Narrows NB, E4C 4P4

develop a strategy to attract more funding partners, programs, and project dollars for Arcadia. Work would include the following:

- *Maintain a sharable database of relevant funding opportunities and identified projects seeking funding*
- *Oversee the grant writing process including writing drafts, creating budgets and timelines, gathering documentation and signatures, submitting projects to funders, and reporting on the use of funds*
- *Assist in building required project teams and coordinate related meetings and manage documentation*
- *Provide industry and government liaison support*
- *Develop data collection and project communication tools (surveys and forms)*
- *Provide regular communications to Council regarding the status of funding applications and ongoing projects*
- *Attend related community meetings, make presentations and recommendations for future projects and partners, and represent Council at meetings with funding agencies*

Councillor Black noted that there should be sufficient funds in the budget to cover the contract as funding was maintained for three positions in anticipation of hiring this year, should the request to the province not be approved.

Acting Clerk LeBlanc will investigate whether the costs can be included in the application for Governance Transition being submitted for this fiscal, or whether they would need to be submitted in a new application for 2023-2024. She will be seeking clarification on the process but essentially, if the costs are not approved for this fiscal, they can be resubmitted for 2024-2025.

Council discussed other costs that might be included in the application. Councillor Gordon noted that while Council has not yet approved the Voyent system, it might be added; Councillor Gahan-MaGee suggested costs for signage, Councillor Mennier suggested funding for a new website design, and Councillor Sharpe noted a contract for the development of bylaws could be included.

With no further questions and discussion to the motion and all in favour, the motion was carried.

5) UMNB Advocacy Days

Mayor Pleadwell noted he had sent information with respect to Advocacy Days to the Finance Committee and provided a summary of some of the discussion that took place in Fredericton on March 20th and 21st. There is a push to move forward on fiscal reform promised by the provincial government. It is on the sitting government's agenda, but it is not moving fast enough. Municipalities are being affected by the lack of levers to raise funding with a number falling into deficits; Arcadia is fortunately not in that position. UMNB is calling for more sustainable, predictable funding.

Council discussed several issues related to fiscal reform and its importance for municipal governments.

6) Candidacy for Zone 5 UMN Board

Mayor Pleadwell shared that there is a vacancy on the UMN Board for a Director for Zone 5 and he was approached to put forward his candidacy. He is interested, but first wanted to hear the thoughts of Council. His priority would be to press for fiscal reform. Council members expressed support for his candidacy with concern over his workload given his involvement in the Capital Region Service Commission and as Mayor. Mayor Pleadwell spoke to the opportunity and visibility the position could provide for Arcadia. Members supported his decision with the caution that he not overextend himself, and that Arcadia remains his priority.

7) Motion for Adjournment

- o *It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Black to adjourn at 7:34 pm.*

With all in favour and none opposed, the motion was carried.



Mayor Derek Pleadwell



Clerk Monique LeBlanc



